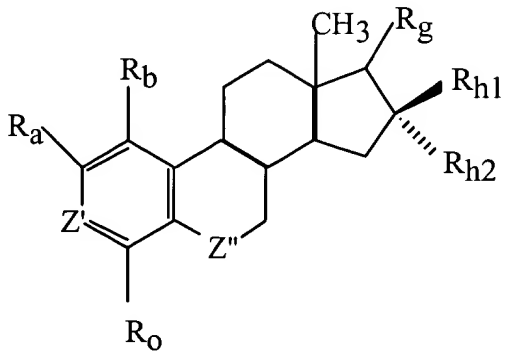
Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of the general formula:



wherein:

a) R_b and R_o are independently -H;

b) R_a is $-N_3$, ~~-C≡N,~~ -C≡C-R, -CH=CH-R, -R-CH=CH_2, -C≡CH, -O-R, -R-R_1, $-OC(O)CH_3$, -C(O)H, $-NH_2$, $-NMe_2$, -NHMe, or -O-R-R_1 where R is a straight or branched alkyl with up to 10 carbons or aralkyl, and R_1 is -OH, $-NH_2$, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F or CF_3;

c) Z' is >COH;

d) >C-R_g is >C(H)-OH;

e) R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H, or a straight or branched chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl with up to 6 carbons that is unsubstituted, or substituted with one or more groups selected from a hetero functionality (O-Y, N-Y_2 or S-Y) where Y is independently selected from H, Me or an alkyl chain up to 6 carbons; a halo functionality (F, Cl, Br or I); an aromatic group optionally substituted with hetero, halo or alkyl; or R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently an aromatic group optionally substituted with hetero, halo or alkyl, provided that both R_{h1} and R_{h2} are not H;

f) Z" is $>CH_2$;

and wherein all monosubstituted substituents have either an α or β configuration.

2. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is OCH_3; and

$>C\text{-}R_g$ is >C(H)-ß-OH.

3. (Original) The compound of Claim 2, wherein:

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H and Et.

4. (Original) The compound of Claim 2, wherein:

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H and n-Pr.

5. (Original) The compound of Claim 2, wherein:

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H and i-Bu.

6. (Original) The compound of Claim 2, wherein:

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H and CH_2OH.

7. (Original) The compound of Claim 2, wherein:

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H and n-Bu.

8. (Original) The compound of Claim 2, wherein:

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H and Me.

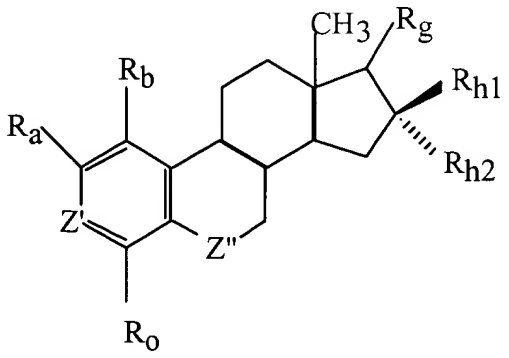
9. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H and $(CH_2)_nN(Me)_2$, wherein

n is from 1 to 6.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously presented) A compound of the general formula:



wherein:

R_a is -O-R where R is a straight or branched alkyl with up to 10 carbons or aralkyl, with the proviso that R_a is not OMe;

R_b and R_o are H,

Z' is >C-OH,

>C-R_g is >C(H)OH,

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently H, or a straight or branched chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl with up to 6 carbons that is unsubstituted, or substituted with one or more groups selected from a hetero functionality (O-Y, N-Y_2 or S-Y) where Y is independently selected from H, Me or an alkyl chain up to 6 carbons; a halo functionality (F, Cl, Br or I); an aromatic group optionally substituted with hetero, halo or alkyl; or R_{h1} and R_{h2} are independently an aromatic group optionally substituted with hetero, halo or alkyl, provided that both R_{h1} and R_{h2} are not H; and

Z" is >CH_2,

and wherein all monosubstituted substituents have either an α or β configuration.

12. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is $OC(O)CH_3$.

13. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is $C(O)H$.

14. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is CH_2OH.

15. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is NH_2.

16. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is $C{\equiv}CCH_3$.

17. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is N_3.

18. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is OEt.

19. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is $CH{=}CHCH_3$.

20. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is NMe_2.

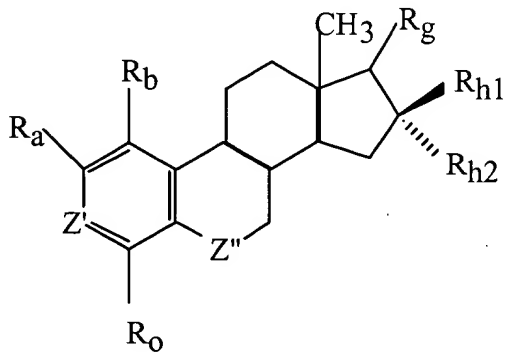
21. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is O-n-Pr.

22. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1, wherein:

R_a is OCH_2CF_3.

23. (Withdrawn) A compound of the general formula:



wherein:

R_b is H,

R_o is -H, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CN, lower alkyl, -OH, $-CH_2$-OH, $-NH_2$; or $N(R_6)(R_7)$, wherein R_6 and R_7 are independently hydrogen or an alkyl or branched alkyl with up to 6 carbons;

R_a is $-N_3$, -C≡N, -C≡C-R, -CH=CH-R, -R-CH=CH_2, -C≡CH, -O-R, -R-R_1, $-OC(O)CH_3$, -C(O)H, $-NH_2$, $-NMe_2$, -NHMe, or -O-R-R_1 where R is a straight or branched alkyl with up to 10 carbons or aralkyl, and R_1 is -OH, $-NH_2$, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F or CF_3;

Z' is >C-OH,

>C-R_g is >C(H)OH or $>CH_2$,

R_{h1} and R_{h2} are H, and

Z" is $>CH_2$, >C=O, >C(H)-OH, $>C=N-OR_5$, $>C(H)-C\equiv N$, or $>C(H)-NR_5R_5$, wherein each R_5 is independently hydrogen, an alkyl or branched alkyl with up to 10 carbons or aralkyl;

and wherein all monosubstituted substituents have either an α or β configuration.

24. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:

R_o is Br,

R_a is Br,

$>C-R_g$ is >C(H)OH, and

Z" is $>CH_2$.

25. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:

R_o is H,

R_a is OEt,

$>C-R_g$ is >C(H)OH, and

Z" is >C(H)OH.

26. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:

R_o is H,

R_a is OEt,

$>C-R_g$ is >C(H)OH, and

Z" is >C=NOMe.

27. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:

R_o is H,

R_a is OEt,

>C-R_g is >C(H)OH, and

Z" is >C=NOH.

28. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:

R_o is H,

R_a is NH_2,

>C-R_g is >CH_2, and

Z" is >CH_2.

29. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:

R_o is H,

R_a is NMe_2,

>C-R_g is >CH_2, and

Z" is >CH_2.

30. (Withdrawn) The compound of Claim 23, wherein:

R_o is H,

R_a is NHMe,

>C-R_g is >CH_2, and

Z" is >CH_2.